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THE SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN, Monday, March 15, 1909, Page Seven
WHAT PINCHOT HAD TO SAY--He Came to Make Friends, Not to
Quarrel--AND HE SUCCEEDED WELL

Misunderstandings Cleared Away by Business Talk of the
Chief Forester

It was a significant joint session of the Thirty-eighth Legislative Assembly, one that will be given a place in history and that will bring rich results in time, that convened on Saturday afternoon at four o'clock in the beautiful Hall of Representatives at the Capitol to hear Hon. Gifford Pinchot, chief forester of the United States on the subject of the conservation of national resources, and particularly the forests in New Mexico. Gallery and floor were crowded with an audience truly representative not only of the Capital, but of the entire Territory for in it were represented almost every conceivable industrial, political and special interest, men and women. It was also a brilliant gathering reflecting the culture and upper of the commonwealth. Many who were late could not gain admission, as every seat was taken.

The Court came to the chamber in a body of members as well as employees were given seats of honor in front of the Speaker's rostrum. Speaker yielded gavel to President _____ who in his address of introduction gave evidence of his oratorical powers and assured Mr. Pinchot if he had any doubt before, that his coming was indeed considered an honor and that his welcome was the most hearty that a hospitable people could give.

Mr. Pinchot, when he arose, before he even spoke a word, created a favorable impression that enlisted the sympathy of his audience. Tall and spare, with eyes deep set and thoughtful, hair sprinkled with gray, aquiline nose and clean cut features that betokened a character of force and yet of kindness, he impressed even the casual student of human nature as a man who was bound to make an impress upon whatever cause he would champion. His very mannerisms, such as rapid twitching of his eyelashes and his peculiar motion of the right hand bringing it down two or three times within a few inches of the table and then finally altogether, whenever he emphasized a point, or warmed up to his subject, helped to strengthen the bond of sympathy and interest with his hearers.

It wasn't an eloquent talk he made but his words were well chosen, almost classic in their conciseness. He spoke rather rapidly, but clearly, and in a direct business-like argument rather than with rhetorical embellishments. He first traced the brief history of the conservation movement and then dwelt upon its wide scope, its potentialities and its significance. Of course no speaker can well separate this movement from the personality of President Roosevelt, on account of the part he has taken in inaugurating and furthering it, and Mr. Pinchot paid a fine tribute to the Rough Rider President, which all know was heartfelt, for the knowledge and friendship of the two men and their admiration for each other is public property.

Having thus outlined his subject in its general aspects, Mr. Pinchot narrowed down to forestry and from that to the forestry needs and its aims in New Mexico. He asked earnestly for the co-operation of the people of the territory, he pleaded for the appointment of advisory boards by stockgrowers' associations and others, boards which have been of great help to the service. He insisted that the forestry and the conservation policies were to help the people, the plain people, to give the poor man a chance rather than to increase the profits of the well-to-do. For that reason in the allotment of grazing privileges, the man with a few head of sheep or cattle was always favored in preference to the owner of large herds.

He described, how upon his first meeting with Governor Curry there sprung up an apparent antagonism but that now that they understood each other as working for the same object they are the best of friends. He paid a rare tribute to the chief executive of the territory and told of the enthusiasm of Governor Curry in the conservation movement. He was glad to say that New Mexico was one of thirty-seven states to have a conservation commission and hoped for speedy statehood for the commonwealth. In this connection, he urged the passage of a conservation bill and the taking of an inventory of territorial resources.

Returning to the forests, he explained how the man who desires to take up a dry farming homestead on a forest reserve has the advantage of the homesteader on the public lands, by having an opportunity to make a year's trial of the land before filing upon it. He explained a new method under consideration, by which those who live on forest reserves may secure timber for fuel and other purposes free of charge without loss of time caused by hunting up

a ranger and making application to him. He explained, too, that the prospector and the miner had the same rights and privileges on the forest reserve as they had on the public domain. He showed cogently why it is unwise to confine forest reserves only to saw timber and in this connection painted the future of New Mexico in glowing colors.

Mr. Pinchot announced that the greater part of the Mescalero Reservation has just been added to the Lincoln Forest, Reserve, which was news to most New Mexicans. He then took up, one by one, types of various complaints that had come to the Forestry headquarters from New Mexico and promised to investigate them and wherever and whenever they could be, to remedy the conditions complained of. To bring the forestry service nearer to the people, district headquarters had been opened at Albuquerque, thus making it unnecessary to take complaints to Washington and making it possible to adjust all difficulties on the ground. He promised to eliminate San Antonio mountain from the Jemez Forest Reserve, if upon investigation it was found to be true that it should not have been included in the Reserve, and promised that other difficulties would be settled expeditiously and justly. He insisted that the service must know of complaints before it could remedy them and that if any settler saw trouble approaching that he warn the service for it is much easier to avoid trouble than to fix up matters after it has come.

Mr. Pinchot said that the Forest Service is anxious for co-operation with every interest not antagonistic to the public welfare which uses or can use the national forests. He would treat every complaint made with a view to avoid misunderstandings, prevent injustice, promote development. The Forest Service exists not only to protect the National Forests. It exists just as much to develop them. He gave statistics of the amount of timber within the forests of New Mexico, the amount which had been cut the past few years to be given away or to be sold and promised that everything would be done to still further increase the revenues so that the \$35,000 received by the last year, 25% of the total would be materially increased. The amount which New Mexico receives each year for this purpose will increase as the forests reach a higher and higher state of development and the best possible use is made of every resource. The Forest Service will do the best to help the legitimate prospectors and miners to give them advantages and protection which they do not enjoy on lands outside the National Forests. The benefit of every reasonable doubt is to be given the miner. The Forest Service stands resolutely by the policy of preferring to help the small man make a living rather than help the large man make a profit.

Mr. Pinchot spoke words of warm praise for Hon. Solomon Luna, Harry W. Kelley and other citizens of New Mexico who had taken a keen interest in the conservation movement and dwelt upon the importance in New Mexico especially of the preservation of running waters and of the range.

The speaker took not quite an hour but he apparently covered his subject well. He was frequently interrupted by applause and commanded the closest attention of legislators and others in his audience. An informal reception was tendered him after his address and he spoke to and shook hands with several hundred people who as they filed past him were introduced by Colonel Jose D. Sena.

He listened attentively afterward in Governor Curry's office to a committee consisting of Judge John R. McFie, Judge A. J. Abbott, Judge N. B. Laughlin and Paul A. F. Walter of the Archaeological Society who sought to enlist his influence on behalf of the completion of the Scenic Highway across the Pecos Forest Reserve and the construction of a road on the Jemez Forest Reserve to the famous cliff ruins and communal buildings in the Rito de los Frijoles. Mr. Pinchot was much interested and advised ways and means to attain the desired end, promising his most hearty co-operation and assistance. Those who conferred with him were charmed with his frankness and apparent sincerity as well as his interest in good roads.

After leaving the Capitol Mr. Pinchot went to the Federal building and visited the forestry and other offices.

While in Santa Fe the Chief Forester was the guest of ex-Governor and Mrs. L. Bradford Prince, personal friends of his for many years. Mr. Pinchot is a New Englander by birth, but a citizen of New York, and his forefathers came from Pike County, Pennsylvania. In manners and sympathies, however, he appeared thoroughly western. He can be assured that he took Santa Fe by storm and that he has today many more admirers in New Mexico than he ever had before. Yesterday morning he left over the Santa Fe for Denver, where he will remain several days and then go to Grand Junction and Delta, to make addresses. Santa Fe hopes that Chief Forester Pinchot will find occasion very soon and frequently thereafter to visit it and be its guest.

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The sixty men gathered around Governor Curry's banquet board on Saturday evening were certainly much impressed with Speaker Miera's earnest defense of New Mexico legislators and their work and it was apparent that he made a very favorable impression upon the guest of the evening, Hon. Gifford Pinchot, who, realizing that the speaker is a native born citizen who had climbed to the top through his own efforts, must have known that those who malign the native people either fail to speak the truth or lack judgment. Mr. Miera spoke in English and eloquently, too, and he voiced the aspirations and the ideals of his people, who are, as good Americans, as true and patriotic, as there are any under the Stars and Stripes

The address of Hon. Gifford Pinchot to the joint session of the legislature assembly on Saturday afternoon brought forcibly home to the legislators the wide scope and the greatness of the conservation movement and should induce them to act upon the suggestion and recommendation of Governor Curry for a conservation commission that as a preliminary for constructive work would take an inventory of the resources of New Mexico. How can this commonwealth expect capital to take up the work of developing the latent resources of the region if it has no clear idea itself of the extent and nature of these resources!